

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN  
MADISON DIVISION

AMY BLEILE,  
an individual,

Plaintiff,

CASE NO: 3:17-CV-105

vs.

TUG, INC,

Defendant.

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**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, Amy Bleile (“Plaintiff”) by and through the undersigned counsel, hereby files this Complaint and sues TUG, INC, for injunctive relief, attorney’s fees and costs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12181 *et seq.*, (“Americans with Disabilities Act” or “ADA”) and alleges:

**JURISDICTION AND PARTIES**

1. This is an action for declaratory and injunctive relief pursuant to Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12181 *et seq.*, (hereinafter referred to as the “ADA”). This Court is vested with original jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. Sections 1331 and 1343.

2. Venue is proper in this Court, the Western District of Wisconsin pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391 (B) and Local Rules of the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin.

3. Plaintiff, Amy Bleile (hereinafter referred to as “Bleile”) is a resident of Whitewater, Wisconsin and is a qualified individual with a disability under the ADA. Bleile suffers from what constitutes a “qualified disability” under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (“ADA”) and all other applicable Federal statutes and regulations to the extent that she

suffers from cerebral palsy and requires the use of a wheelchair for mobility and has limited use of her upper extremities. Prior to instituting the instant action, Bleile visited the Defendant's premises at issue in this matter, and was denied full, safe and equal access to the subject property of Defendant due to its lack of compliance with the ADA. Bleile continues to desire and intends to visit the Defendant's premises but continues to be denied full, safe and equal access due to the barriers to access that continue to exist.

4. The Defendant, TUG, Inc, is a corporation registered to do business and, in fact, conducting business in the State of Wisconsin. Upon information and belief, TUG, Inc, (hereinafter referred to as "TUG") is the owner, lessee and/or operator of the real property and improvements that is the subject of this action, specifically: Applebee's located at 3024 Milton Court Street in Janesville, Wisconsin (hereinafter referred to as "Restaurant").

5. All events giving rise to this lawsuit occurred in the Western District of Wisconsin.

#### **COUNT I - VIOLATION OF THE ADA**

6. On or about July 26, 1990, Congress enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), 42 U.S.C. §12101 *et seq.* Commercial enterprises were provided one and a half years from enactment of the statute to implement its requirements. The effective date of Title III of the ADA was January 26, 1992. 42 U.S.C. §12181; 20 C.F.R. §36.508 (A).

7. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12181(7) and 28 C.F.R. §36.104, the Restaurant owned by TUG is a place of public accommodation in that it is a restaurant operated by a private entity that provides goods and services to the public.

8. Defendant, TUG, has discriminated and continues to discriminate against the Plaintiff, and others who are similarly situated, by denying access to, and full, safe and equal

enjoyment of goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations at the Restaurant in derogation of 42 U.S.C §12101 *et seq.*

9. The Plaintiff has been unable to and continues to be unable to enjoy access to, and the benefits of the services offered at Restaurant owned by TUG. Prior to the filing of this lawsuit, Plaintiff personally and regularly visited the Restaurant at issue in this lawsuit and was denied access to the benefits, accommodations and services of the Defendant's premises and therefore suffered an injury in fact as a result of the barriers listed in Paragraph 11, below, that the Plaintiff personally encountered. In addition, Plaintiff continues to desire and intends to visit the Restaurant, but continues to be injured in that she is unable to and continues to be discriminated against due to the barriers to access which remain at the Restaurant in violation of the ADA. Bleile has now and continues to have reasonable grounds for believing that she has been and will be discriminated against because of the Defendant's continuing deliberate and knowing violations of the ADA.

10. Pursuant to the mandates of 42 U.S.C. §12134(a), on July 26, 1991, the Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, promulgated Federal Regulations to implement the requirements of the ADA 28 C.F.R. Part 36.

11. TUG is in violation of 42 U.S.C. §12181 *et seq.* and 28 C.F.R. §36.302 *et seq.* and is discriminating against the Plaintiff as a result of *inter alia*, the following specific violations that Plaintiff personally encountered:

- i. The accessible signage on the accessible parking spaces are mounted too low to be seen over parked vehicles;
- ii. One of the accessible parking space lacks an adjacent access aisle necessary for a wheel chair user to enter and exit a vehicle parked in the

accessible parking space without being blocked by a vehicle parked in an adjacent space.

- iii. The access aisle of the other accessible parking space is too narrow for a wheel chair user to have sufficient clear space to exit and enter a vehicle parked in the accessible parking space;
- iv. The accessible toilet stall in the women's restroom is too narrow and not deep enough for a wheel chair user and no standard wheel chair accessible toilet stall is provided;
- v. The flush valve is located on the narrow side of the toilet compartment and is out of reach for a wheel chair user;
- vi. The rear mounted grab is too narrow for a wheel chair user;
- vii. The water closet is too far from the side wall;
- viii. The mirror is too high for a wheel chair user;
- ix. There are an insufficient number of wheel chair accessible tables and seating positions.

12. There are other current barriers to access and violations of the ADA at the Restaurant owned and operated by TUG that were not specifically identified herein as the Plaintiff is not required to engage in a futile gesture pursuant to 28 C.F.R. Part 36, §36.501 and, as such, only once a full inspection is performed by Plaintiff or Plaintiff's representatives can all said violations be identified.

13. To date, the barriers to access and other violations of the ADA still exist and have not been remedied or altered in such a way as to effectuate compliance with the provisions of the ADA.

14. Pursuant to the ADA, 42 U.S.C. §12101 *et seq.* and 28 C.F.R. §36.304, TUG was required to make its Restaurant, a place of public accommodation, accessible to persons with disabilities by January 28, 1992. To date, TUG has failed to comply with this mandate.

15. Plaintiff has been obligated to retain undersigned counsel for the filing and prosecution of this action. Plaintiff is entitled to have his reasonable attorney's fees, costs and expenses paid by TUG pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12205.

16. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12188, this Court is vested with the authority to grant Plaintiff injunctive relief, including an Order to alter the subject facilities to make them readily accessible to, and useable by, individuals with disabilities to the extent required by the ADA, and closing the subject facilities until the requisite modifications are completed.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff demands judgment against TUG, INC, and requests the following injunctive and declaratory relief:

- A. That the Court declare that the property owned and administered by Defendant is violative of the ADA;
- B. That the Court enter an Order directing Defendant to alter its facilities to make them accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities to the full extent required by Title III of the ADA;
- C. That the Court enter an Order directing Defendant to evaluate and neutralize its policies and procedures towards persons with disabilities for such reasonable time so as to allow them to undertake and complete corrective procedures;
- D. That the Court award reasonable attorney's fees, costs (including expert fees) and other expenses of suit, to the Plaintiff; and
- E. That the Court award such other and further relief as it deems necessary, just and proper.

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Edward I. Zwillling  
Edward I. Zwillling, Esq.  
Bar No.: ASB-1564-L54E

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